(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) by when it is likely to be under-taken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY): (a) to (e) For setting up economically viable dealerships/distributorships in various parts of the country, including Meghalaya, feasibility studies are conducted periodically by the Oil Companies and based thereon, locations are included under the Marketing Plans.

A total of 10 more LPG distributorships have been included in Marketing Plan for Meghalaya.

LPG Agencies functioning in Meghalaya

1638. SHRI ONWARD L. NONGTDU: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the names of LPG agencies functioning in Meghalaya as on 31st October, 1999;

(b) whether Government propose to consider the demand of the State Government to set up more gas agencies;

(c) if so, the number of applications from Meghalaya received for setting up LPG agencies, disposed of and still pending for sanction; and

(d) by when the aforsaid applications are likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY): (a) As on 31.10.1999 following 10 LPG distributorships were in operation in Meghalaya:

(1) M/s Longkmie Gas Agency, Shillong.
(2) M/s Eehcloy Gas Agency, Shillong.
(3) M/s Khasipnar Gas Agency, Shillong.
(4) M/s Meghalaya Gas Agency, Shillong.
(5) M/s Momin Gas Agency, Tura.
(6) M/s Sukbha Gas Agency, Shillong.
(7) M/s United Fruit & Co., Shillong.
(8) M/s Mecofed. Sillong.

(9) M/s Rymbai Gas Agency, Jowai.
(10) M/s James Flame, Williamnagar.

(b) to (d) As per the existing policy, on the basis of economic viability, dealership/distributorships included in the Marketing Plan are advertised for selection through Dealer Selection Boards. Accordingly, it is proposed to set up 10 more LPG distributorships in Meghalaya. Seletion activity is a continuous and on going process. It generally takes 1-2 years for commissiong of dealership/ distributorships from the date of issue of advertisement.

Acute shortage of LPG in Visakhapatnam

1639. DR. Y LAKSHMI PRASAD: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is acute shortage of LPG for the consumers of HPCL in the Visakhapatnam city; and

(b) if so, the steps taken to meet the shortage immediately?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY): (a) Some backlog had develped among HP gas distributors in Visakhapatnam city in the recent past due to Vizag Refinery scheduled maintenance shutdown, transporters strike etc.

(b) Supplies were arranged from other places to Visakhapatnam city to meet the demand.

Violation of tendering norms

1640. SHRI ABANI ROY: Will the Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry has ordered a probe into alleged voilation of tendering norms including tampering of bids by officials of Engineers India Limited and an oil infrastructure company;

(b) if so, the full facts of the violations made by EIL and an oil company;

(c) whether Government are aware that there are large scale corruption and irregularities in various oil companies and PSUs under this Ministry; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by Government to bring transparency in their functioning?